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Dear Josh:

Thank you for your letter with the neolactose information. If I make some, I shall certainly send a sample to you. However, the problem for which the neolactose is needed is merely tangential to the main problem under investigation. The main problem concerns the study of a lactase constitutive, lactose non-utilizing mutant which was derived from strain W 1317. Now both the lac<sup>-</sup> mutant and W 1317 show certain anomalies with respect to maximal activity of intact cells on ONPG which are not shown by K-12. Since I am interested to know whether this anomaly (see below) is peculiar to these two mutants, or is exhibited by other constitutive lactase strains also, I want to select some other constitutive strains.

I certainly did NOT mean to write that strain K-12 shows maximum activity of intact cells at any ONPG concentration. What I DID mean to state was that under my experimental conditions K-12 cells show maximal activity at ONPG concentration of  $5 \times 10^{-3} M$ , whereas the activity rate of both these constitutive strain W 1385 and the above mentioned mutant do not reach a maximum at this concentration but increases with increased concentration of substrate.

I have been considering to write to Dr. Rotman about my experiments. What has kept me from doing it so far is the fact that I have essentially ~~mm~~ similar data to ~~that~~ presented to you and him by Howard Rickenberg last August. Upon Howard's return to Yale we discussed his trip at length, since I was just ~~xxx~~ then starting to work with this mutant. Rotman's observations concerning the variation in activation with cultural conditions holds true also for W 1385 and the mutant.

Finally a word about my stay here: I merely transferred here because my husband holds a position here now and I did not want to stay alone in New Haven. So Robert Guthrie agreed to be my sponsor, ostensibly, while I'm continuing a problem started at Yale and which is independent of all the other work going on here around me.

Sincerely yours,

*Ellen*

P.S. Thanks so much for offering the seed neolactose crystals. I shall let you know when I need them. - Happy holidays!  
Would you please put me on your reprint list?